Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 126465

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 L-01 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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APPROVED BY ARA:CAR:JRBURKE
EUR:NE:JJCROWLEY (SUBSTANCE)
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O 302109Z MAY 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 126465

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UK, US, XL
SUBJECT: BRITISH DECISION REGARDING ANGUILLA'S CONSTITU-
TIONAL STATUS.

1. DAVID WALKER, FIRST SECRETARY, BRITISH EMBASSY, CALLED ON DEPARTMENT OFFICER MAY 30 TO PASS ON THE FOLLOWING:

A. IT WAS ANNOUNCED IN LONDON TODAY THAT DURING TALKS WITH MR. WEBSTER AND TWO OF HIS COUNCIL COLLEAGUES IN LONDON BETWEEN 20-27 MAY; HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT MADE PROPOSALS UNDER WHICH A GREATER DEGREE OF AUTHORITY WOULD BE DEVOLVED ONTO ANGUILLA'S ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, BUT FALLING SHORT OF FORMAL SEPARATION. A SEPARATE CONSTITUTION FOR ANGUILLA WOULD PROVIDE FOR A LARGER DEGREE OF INTERNAL AUTONOMY BUT HMG WOULD RETAIN ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEFENCE, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, INTERNAL SECURITY, THE JUDICI-
ARY, THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND FINANCE. MR. WEBSTER HAS
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PAGE 02 STATE 126465

INDICATED THAT THIS SOLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE AND DETAILED

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

CONSULTATIONS WILL FOLLOW.

B. MR. WILSON HAS SENT PERSONAL MESSAGES TO THE PRIME MINISTERS OR PREMIERS OF BARBADOS, TRINIDAD, GUYANA AND THE ASSOCIATED STATES EXPLAINING THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF OUR COMPROMISE PROPOSALS. MR. WILSON ALSO SENT A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO MR. BRADSHAW EXPLAINING THAT THE COMPROMISE

PROPOSALS, WHICH MR. BRADSHAW HAD DISCUSSED WITH MISS LESTER EARLIER IN THE MONTH IN BARBADOS, WOULD PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE STATE OF ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA WHILE PROVIDING ANGUILLA WITH A GREATER DEGREE OF AUTONOMY IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. REGRETTABLY, MR. BRADSHAW FELT UNABLE TO ENDORSE THESE PROPOSALS.

2. WALKER PROVIDED DEPARTMENT OFFICER WITH TEXT OF PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER WILSON TO PRIME MINISTERS/PREMIERS OF JAMAICA, TRINIDAD, GUYANA AND THE ASSOCIATED STATES (TEXT SEPTEL).

3. WALKER, IN STRICT CONFIDENCE, SHOWED DEPARTMENT OFFI-

CER TEXT OF BRADSHAW'S REPLY TO WILSON. IN HIS REPLY, BRADSHAW DENOUNCES BRITISH ACTION IN THE STRONGEST TERMS CHARGING THAT THE MOVE WILL REVERSE EFFORTS TOWARD INTEGRATION AMONGST THE WEST INDIES ASSOCIATED STATES. BRADSHAW ALSO INCLUDES A BITTER REFERENCE TO BRITAIN'S UNILATERAL ACTION WHICH HE CONTRASTS UNFAVORABLY WITH THE UK'S UNWILLINGNESS TO DEAL FORCEFULLY WITH THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM. TONE AND SUBSTANCE OF BRADSHAW'S REPLY HAVE NOT GONE DOWN WELL IN LONDON ACCORDING TO WALKER. INGERSOLL

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EO Systematic Review
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